

Michael J. Schlimgen House
24 E. Johnson Street
Madison
Dane County
Wisconsin

HABS No. WI-297

HABS
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PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Building Survey
National Park Service
Rocky Mountain Regional Office
Department of the Interior
P. O. Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 80225

United States Department of the Interior

Historic American Buildings Survey

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION

Architectural Data Form

STATE COUNTY TOWN OR VICINITY

Wisconsin Dane County City of Madison

HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) HABS NO.

Michael J. Schlimgen house (original owner, tax assessment records,
City directories)

WI-297

SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE

Not Applicable

COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES)

24 East Johnson Street

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE)

1905 (tax assessment records, Wisconsin
State Journal, Dec. 2, 1905)Claude and Starck (Wisconsin State Journal,
December 2, 1905)

SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE)

Built in 1905, this two-and-one-half-story frame Prairie-style house was designed by the
locally prominent architectural firm of Claude and Starck. Claude and Starck (continued)

STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE)

Prairie style

MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS)

Narrow clapboard over balloon frame; concrete block foundation on front half
of building, sandstone on rear half.

SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE)

The house is basically rectangular in shape; it is approximately
32' wide and 53' deep

EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE

Narrow clapboard siding; hipped roof with hipped front pavilion, asphalt shingles,
flared eaves; wide porch across front with shallow hipped roof, square posts on (continued)

INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED)

The main entrance on the first floor is located at the south corner of the front facade;
it leads to a small vestibule which opens into a large central stair hall. (continued)

MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES

The kitchen and bathroom fixtures and cabinets appear to date from the
1940s or 1950s.

PRESENT CONDITION AND USE

Deteriorated condition; single-family residence vacant since 1979;
demolition planned for Summer, 1985.

OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE

The demolition of this building is part of a major revitalization project for the block
known as the Block 92 Venture. The project will be partially funded by a Community Block
Development Block Grant.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDE LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.)

Tax assessment records; city directories; building permit file; Wisconsin State Journal,
Dec. 2, 1905 (notice of construction); Madison Past and Present, 1852-1902, (continued)

COMPILER, AFFILIATION

DATE

Latherine Hundt Rankin, Preservation Planner, City of Madison

May 16, 1985

Significance, continued:

were most well known for their residences and libraries in the Prairie style. There are over 130 known examples of their work remaining in Madison, including several buildings on the National Register of Historic Places. Compared to Claude and Starck's other Prairie style residences, this house is a relatively undistinguished example. The house retains much of its original appearance, although it has severely deteriorated.

The house was built for the Schlimgen family. John Schlimgen, who lived in the house until around 1927, came to Madison in 1863 and worked at first as a saloon-keeper, money-lender and insurance agent. In 1882, he founded a monument dealership, which grew into one of the largest businesses of its kind in Madison. John Schlimgen turned over the business to a son in 1898 and in semi-retirement continued to sell real estate and make loans. He and his wife, Amanda, lived in this house with a son, Michael, who was a bookkeeper in the family business and a daughter, Louise, who was a seamstress. From 1927 until 1950, Louise Schlimgen lived in the house, sometimes renting out rooms to boarders.

Any historical significance that the Schlimgen family might have had would be more closely associated with an earlier house or with the location of their business (a building constructed for the family's monument dealership in 1914 still remains in good condition at 1327-1333 University Avenue). The house does, however, contribute to the historic character of Mansion Hill as a pleasantly designed turn-of-the-century house constructed for the family of a successful local merchant.

Exterior Features of Note, continued:

concrete pedestals, spindled railing; hipped roofed dormers with flared eaves; oversized double-hung windows.

Interior Features of Note, continued:

The open stairway leads to the landing in an orielled bay from which a second flight proceeds to the second floor. In the center front of the building is a study. In the east corner is the large living room. In the north corner behind the living room is the dining room and in the west corner is the kitchen, which is linked to the dining room by a pantry-hall onto which opens a small bathroom. A one-story vestibule off the corner of the building provides egress from the kitchen. The second floor features a large central stairhall with four large bedrooms and one bathroom. The open stairway continues up to the third floor, which contains two small bedrooms and two unfinished storage areas. A rear stairway directly behind the main stairway has been partially removed.

The window and door trim on the first floor was oak, but it has all been stolen. The only remaining element is the oak stairway with geometric Prairie style newel posts, and square balusters placed closely together at a 45 degree angle from the lines of the stairway. Three windows had leaded glass sash, but these have also been stolen. The wood trim on the second and third floors is pine. Floors on the first and second floor are maple. On the third floor they are wide painted boards.

Sources of Information, continued:

Madison: Wisconsin State Journal, 1902, p. 211 (history of Schlimgen firm); Consul W. Butterfield, ed., History of Dane County, Wisconsin, Chicago: Western Historical Company, 1880, p. 1028 (biographical information on the Schlimgen family). Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places, 1974.